

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 /019 R

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UNCLAS STATE 230721 TOSEC 270278

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, HEADED "CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA."
2. TWO THINGS STAND OUT IN THE EPIDEMIC OF MANIFESTATIONS AGAINST APARTHEID THAT CONTINUES TO ROCK SOUTH AFRICA; AND BOTH ARE MENACING, NOT SIMPLY FOR WHITE RULE BUT FOR THE LONG-RUN CHANCES FOR A PEACEFUL RACIAL AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION:
3. FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, THE OTHER NON-WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS--ESPECIALLY THE "COLOREDS" OF CAPE PROVINCE-- HAVE UNITED WITH THE BLACK AFRICAN MAJORITY AGAINST THE WHITE GOVERNMENT.
4. THE DEMONSTRATIONS--PARTICULARLY THE STRIKES THAT HAVE BROUGHT INDUSTRIAL JOHANNESBURG CLOSE TO A STANDSTILL TWICE IN A MONTH--HAVE BEEN PLANNED AND LED BY STUDENTS WHO MAKE NO SECRET OF THEIR CONTEMPT FOR THE TRADITIONAL BLACK

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LEADERS.

5. "YOU ARE FACING THE LAST GENERATION OF BLACKS WHO ARE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE," THE MAYOR OF THE BLACK SOWETO TOWNSHIP OUTSIDE JOHANNESBURG TOLD GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS. BUT THE MAYOR'S OWN HOUSE WAS ALMOST BURNED DOWN BY YOUNG RADICALS; NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIM AND HIS KIND MAY ALREADY BE IRRELEVANT.

6. FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY, SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK LEADERS TRIED PATIENTLY TO NEGOTIATE FOR DIGNITY, EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND A SHARE OF POLITICAL POWER. THEY SOUGHT NOT TO DRIVE OUT THE WHITES BUT TO SHARE WITH THEM IN A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY. BUT THE GOVERNMENT EVEN TODAY IMPRISONS SUCH LEADERS INSTEAD OF NEGOTIATING WITH THEM; AND IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT THE "BLACK POWER" DOCTRINE IS NOW SPREADING RAPIDLY THROUGH THE TOWNSHIPS.

7. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE ONCE-DOCILE "COLOREDS" -- SOUTH AFRICANS OF MIXED RACE--HAVE TAKEN UP WITH COURAGE AND INGENUITY THE REVOLT BEGUN BY SOWETO BLACKS AND MANAGED TO BRING THEIR PROTEST RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF CAPE TOWN. YOUNG INDIANS, TOO, HAVE BRIDGED THE ARTIFICIAL GAP CREATED BY APARTHEID AND, IN INCREASING NUMBERS, JOINED THE STRUGGLE FOR ITS DISMEMBERMENT.

8. THESE DEVELOPMENTS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT FOR LONG BE LEFT OUT OF ANY EQUATION AIMED AT BUILDING PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. SECRETARY KISSINGER IS RIGHT TO CONCENTRATE FIRST ON SOLUTIONS FOR NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA; BUT HE CANNOT PROMISE SOUTH AFRICA A LONG RESPITE IN RETURN FOR ITS HELP WITH THOSE PROBLEMS. AND HE MUST SELECT WITH SOME CARE THE BLACK LEADERS HE CONFERS WITH IN SOUTH AFRICA--OR HE IS LIKELY TO FIND HIS CONVERSATIONS AS IRRELEVANT AS THE MAYOR OF SOWETO NOW SEEMS TO BE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, APARTHEID, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE230721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HABROTHERTON:HAB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760351-1113
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760947/aaaabobn.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, PINS, SHUM, US, SF, NEW YORK TIMES, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006